

## ANALYTIC PROOF OF THE PARTITION IDENTITY

$$A_{5,3,3}(n) = B_{5,3,3}^0(n)$$

PADMAVATHAMMA, CHANDRASHEKARA B.M., RAGHAVENDRA R., AND  
C. KRATTENTHALER<sup>\*†</sup>

Department of Studies in Mathematics  
University of Mysore, Manasagangotri  
Mysore – 570 006, Karnataka, India

E-mail: padma\_vathamma@yahoo.com, chandru\_alur@yahoo.com,  
raghu\_maths@yahoo.co.in

<sup>\*</sup>Institut Girard Desargues, Université Claude Bernard Lyon-I  
21, avenue Claude Bernard, F-69622 Villeurbanne Cedex, France  
E-mail: kratt@igd.univ-lyon1.fr  
WWW: <http://igd.univ-lyon1.fr/~kratt>

ABSTRACT. In this paper we give an analytic proof of the identity  $A_{5,3,3}(n) = B_{5,3,3}^0(n)$ , where  $A_{5,3,3}(n)$  counts the number of partitions of  $n$  subject to certain restrictions on their parts, and  $B_{5,3,3}^0(n)$  counts the number of partitions of  $n$  subject to certain other restrictions on their parts, both too long to be stated in the abstract. Our proof establishes actually a refinement of that partition identity. The original identity was first discovered by the first author jointly with M. Ruby Salestina and S. R. Sudarshan in [“A new theorem on partitions,” Proc. Int. Conference on Special Functions, IMSC, Chennai, India, September 23–27, 2002; to appear], where it was also given a combinatorial proof, thus responding a question of Andrews.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

For an even integer  $\lambda$ , let  $A_{\lambda,k,a}(n)$  denote the number of partitions of  $n$  such that

- no part  $\not\equiv 0 \pmod{\lambda+1}$  may be repeated, and
- no part is  $\equiv 0, \pm(a - \frac{\lambda}{2}) \pmod{(\lambda+1)(2k - \lambda + 1)}$ .

For an odd integer  $\lambda$ , let  $A_{\lambda,k,a}(n)$  denote the number of partitions of  $n$  such that

- no part  $\not\equiv 0 \pmod{\frac{\lambda+1}{2}}$  may be repeated,
- no part is  $\equiv \lambda+1 \pmod{2\lambda+2}$ , and
- no part is  $\equiv 0, \pm(2a - \lambda) \pmod{(2k - \lambda + 1)(\lambda+1)}$ .

Let  $B_{\lambda,k,a}(n)$  denote the number of partitions of  $n$  of the form  $b_1 + \cdots + b_s$  with  $b_i \geq b_{i+1}$ , such that

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- no part  $\not\equiv 0 \pmod{\lambda + 1}$  is repeated,
- $b_i - b_{i+k-1} \geq \lambda + 1$ , with strict inequality if  $b_i$  is a multiple of  $\lambda + 1$ , and
- $\sum_{i=j}^{\lambda-j+1} f_i \leq a - j$  for  $1 \leq j \leq \frac{\lambda+1}{2}$  and  $f_1 + \cdots + f_{\lambda+1} \leq a - 1$ , where  $f_j$  is the number of appearances of  $j$  in the partition.

In 1969, Andrews [1] proved the following theorem.

**Theorem 1** ([1, Th. 2]). *If  $\lambda$ ,  $k$ , and  $a$  are positive integers with  $\frac{\lambda}{2} \leq a \leq k$  and  $k \geq 2\lambda - 1$ , then, for every positive integer  $n$ , we have*

$$A_{\lambda,k,a}(n) = B_{\lambda,k,a}(n).$$

Schur's theorem [6] addresses the case  $\lambda = k = a = 2$ . Hence, it is *not* a particular case of Theorem 1 as  $k \geq 2\lambda - 1$  is not satisfied. Motivated by this observation, Andrews [1] first conjectured, and later proved in [2], that Theorem 1 is still true for  $k \geq \lambda$ .

In the same paper [2], Andrews raised the following question: Is it possible to modify the conditions on the partitions enumerated by  $B_{\lambda,k,a}(n)$  so that values of  $k < \lambda$  would be admissible? In fact, Schur [6] had proved that  $A_{3,2,2}(n) = B_{3,2,2}^0(n)$ , where  $B_{3,2,2}^0(n)$  denotes the number of partitions enumerated by  $B_{3,2,2}(n)$  with the added condition that no parts are  $\equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ .

This led Andrews [2] to state the following conjecture.

**Conejcture 2.** *There holds the identity  $A_{4,3,3}(n) = B_{4,3,3}^0(n)$  for all positive integers  $n$ , where  $B_{4,3,3}^0(n)$  denotes the number of partitions of  $n$  enumerated by  $B_{4,3,3}(n)$  with the added restrictions:*

$$\begin{aligned} f_{5j+2} + f_{5j+3} &\leq 1 & \text{for } j \geq 0, \\ f_{5j+4} + f_{5j+6} &\leq 1 & \text{for } j \geq 0, \\ f_{5j-1} + f_{5j} + f_{5j+5} + f_{5j+6} &\leq 3 & \text{for } j \geq 1, \end{aligned}$$

where, as before,  $f_j$  denotes the number of appearances of  $j$  in the partition.

In the year 1994, Andrews et al. [3] gave an analytic proof of the above conjecture. The first author and Ruby Salestina, M. gave a combinatorial proof in [4]. In [5], these two authors and Sudarshan, S.R. first conjectured, and then proved combinatorially, the following result, which is analogous to Conjecture 2.

**Theorem 3.** *There holds the identity  $A_{5,3,3}(n) = B_{5,3,3}^0(n)$  for all positive integers  $n$ , where  $B_{5,3,3}^0(n)$  denotes the number of partitions of  $n$  enumerated by  $B_{5,3,3}(n)$  with the added restrictions:*

$$\begin{aligned} f_{6j+3} &= 0 & \text{for } j \geq 0, \\ f_{6j+2} + f_{6j+4} &\leq 1 & \text{for } j \geq 0, \\ f_{6j+5} + f_{6j+7} &\leq 1 & \text{for } j \geq 0, \\ f_{6j-1} + f_{6j} + f_{6j+6} + f_{6j+7} &\leq 3 & \text{for } j \geq 1. \end{aligned}$$

The object of this paper is to give an analytic proof of the partition identity stated in Theorem 3. Actually, we are going to prove a new refinement of that partition identity, which we state in the next section. The method of our proof in Section 3 is similar to that of Andrews et al. in [3].

## 2. A REFINEMENT OF THE PARTITION IDENTITY IN THEOREM 3

Before being able to state the announced refinement of Theorem 3, we need to make two definitions.

*Definition 1.* Let  $A(\mu, \nu, N)$  denote the number of partitions of  $N$  into distinct non-multiples of 6 of which  $\mu$  are congruent to 1 or 2 mod 6 and  $\nu$  are congruent to 4 or 5 mod 6.

Clearly, we have

$$(2.1) \quad \sum_{\mu, \nu, N \geq 0} A(\mu, \nu, N) a^\mu b^\nu q^N = \prod_{n=0}^{\infty} (1 + aq^{6n+1})(1 + aq^{6n+2})(1 + bq^{6n+4})(1 + bq^{6n+5}).$$

*Definition 2.* Let  $B(\mu, \nu, N)$  denote the number of partitions  $\lambda = b_1 + \dots + b_s$  of  $N$  satisfying the following conditions:

- (i) Only multiples of 6 may be repeated.
- (ii)  $b_i - b_{i+2} \geq 6$  with strict inequality if  $b_i$  is a multiple of 6.
- (iii) The multiplicities  $f_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq s$ , satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} f_{6j+3} &= 0 & \text{for all } j \geq 0, \\ f_{6j+2} + f_{6j+4} &\leq 1 & \text{for all } j \geq 0, \\ f_{6j+5} + f_{6j+7} &\leq 1 & \text{for all } j \geq 0, \\ f_{6j-1} + f_{6j} + f_{6j+6} + f_{6j+7} &\leq 3 & \text{for all } j \geq 1. \end{aligned}$$

- (iv) There are  $\mu$  parts of the partition  $\equiv 0, 1$  or  $2 \pmod{6}$ .
- (v) There are  $\nu$  parts of the partition  $\equiv 0, 4$  or  $5 \pmod{6}$ .

The following theorem is the announced refinement of Theorem 3.

**Theorem 4.** For each  $\mu, \nu, N \geq 0$  we have

$$(2.2) \quad A(\mu, \nu, N) = B(\mu, \nu, N).$$

It is obvious that Theorem 3 follows immediately from Theorem 4 by summing both sides of (2.2) over all  $\mu$  and  $\nu$ . The proof of Theorem 4 is given in the next section.

## 3. PROOF OF THEOREM 4

We first observe that for any partition which satisfies (i)–(iii) of Definition 2 there are exactly 16 possibilities (numbered 0–15 in Table 1) for the subset of summands of the partition that lie in the interval  $[6i + 1, 6i + 6]$ .

We now refine the partitions from Definition 2 further, using the classification given in Table 1.

*Definition 3.* Let  $S_n(j, a, b, q)$  denote the generating function

$$\sum B_n(\mu, \nu, N) a^\mu b^\nu q^N,$$

where  $B_n(\mu, \nu, N)$  is the number of all partitions considered in Definition 2, which in addition satisfy the two conditions

0 :	$\emptyset$ : empty
1 :	$6i + 1$
2 :	$6i + 2$
3 :	$6i + 2, 6i + 1$
4 :	$6i + 4$
5 :	$6i + 4, 6i + 1$
6 :	$6i + 5$
7 :	$6i + 5, 6i + 1$
8 :	$6i + 5, 6i + 2$
9 :	$6i + 5, 6i + 4$
10 :	$6i + 6$
11 :	$6i + 6, 6i + 1$
12 :	$6i + 6, 6i + 2$
13 :	$6i + 6, 6i + 4$
14 :	$6i + 6, 6i + 5$
15 :	$6i + 6, 6i + 6$

TABLE 1.

- (vi) all parts are  $\leq 6n + 6$ , and
- (vii) the subset of summands that lie in the interval  $[6n + 1, 6n + 6]$  must have number  $\leq j$  in Table 1.

When  $n = -1$ , we define  $S_{-1}(j, a, b, q) = 1$  and for  $n < -1$ , we define  $S_n(j, a, b, q) = 0$ .

For example,

$$S_0(9, a, b, q) = 1 + aq + aq^2 + a^2q^3 + bq^4 + abq^5 + bq^5 + abq^6 + abq^7$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} S_0(15, a, b, q) = 1 + aq + aq^2 + a^2q^3 + bq^4 + abq^5 + bq^5 + 2abq^6 + a^2bq^7 + abq^7 \\ + a^2bq^8 + b^2q^9 + ab^2q^{10} + ab^2q^{11} + a^2b^2q^{12}. \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to verify that

$$S_0(15, a, b, q) = (1 + aq)(1 + aq^2)(1 + bq^4)(1 + bq^5).$$

For convenience, we write  $S_n(j)$  for  $S_n(j, a, b, q)$ . Along the lines of [3], we obtain the following recurrence relations for  $S_n(j)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
(3.1) \quad & S_n(0) = S_{n-1}(15), \\
(3.2) \quad & S_n(1) = S_n(0) + aq^{6n+1}[S_{n-1}(11) - S_{n-1}(9) + S_{n-1}(5)] \\
& \quad \quad \quad - a^3b^3q^{24n-12}S_{n-3}(9), \\
(3.3) \quad & S_n(2) = S_n(1) + aq^{6n+2}[S_{n-1}(12) - S_{n-1}(9) + S_{n-1}(8)], \\
(3.4) \quad & S_n(3) = S_n(2) + a^2q^{12n+3}S_{n-1}(3), \\
(3.5) \quad & S_n(4) = S_n(3) + bq^{6n+4}S_{n-1}(13), \\
(3.6) \quad & S_n(5) = S_n(4) + abq^{12n+5}S_{n-1}(5), \\
(3.7) \quad & S_n(6) = S_n(5) + bq^{6n+5}S_{n-1}(14), \\
(3.8) \quad & S_n(7) = S_n(6) + abq^{12n+6}S_{n-1}(5), \\
(3.9) \quad & S_n(8) = S_n(7) + abq^{12n+7}S_{n-1}(8), \\
(3.10) \quad & S_n(9) = S_n(8) + b^2q^{12n+9}S_{n-1}(9), \\
(3.11) \quad & S_n(10) = S_n(9) + abq^{6n+6}S_{n-1}(14), \\
(3.12) \quad & S_n(11) = S_n(10) + a^2bq^{12n+7}S_{n-1}(5), \\
(3.13) \quad & S_n(12) = S_n(11) + a^2bq^{12n+8}S_{n-1}(8), \\
(3.14) \quad & S_n(13) = S_n(12) + ab^2q^{12n+10}S_{n-1}(9), \\
(3.15) \quad & S_n(14) = S_n(13) + ab^2q^{12n+11}S_{n-1}(9), \\
(3.16) \quad & S_n(15) = S_n(14) + a^2b^2q^{12n+12}S_{n-1}(9).
\end{aligned}$$

We now define two linear combinations of the  $S_n(9)$ 's and the  $S_n(15)$ 's,

$$\begin{aligned}
(3.17) \quad & J(n) := S_n(9) - (1 - q^{6n})(1 + aq^{6n+1} + aq^{6n+2} + bq^{6n+4} + bq^{6n+5})S_{n-1}(15) \\
& \quad - q^{6n}(1 + aq^{6n+1} + aq^{6n+2} + a^2q^{6n+3} + bq^{6n+4} + bq^{6n+5} + abq^{6n+5} \\
& \quad \quad \quad + abq^{6n+6} + abq^{6n+7} + b^2q^{6n+9})S_{n-1}(9) \\
& \quad + (1 - q^{6n})abq^{18n-3}(a^2 + abq^2 + abq^3 + abq^4 + a^2bq^4 + a^2bq^5 + b^2q^6 \\
& \quad \quad \quad + ab^2q^7 + ab^2q^8)S_{n-2}(9) \\
& \quad + a^3b^3q^{24n-12}(1 - q^{6n})(1 - q^{6n-6})S_{n-3}(9),
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
(3.18) \quad & K(n) := S_n(9) - S_n(15) + abq^{6n+6}(1 - q^{6n})S_{n-1}(15) \\
& \quad + abq^{12n+6}(1 + aq + aq^2 + bq^4 + bq^5 + abq^6)S_{n-1}(9) \\
& \quad - a^3b^3q^{18n+6}(1 - q^{6n})S_{n-2}(9).
\end{aligned}$$

Along lines similar to those in [3], we are able to obtain a recurrence for  $S_n(9)$  (see Lemma 6).

**Lemma 5.** For  $n \geq 0$ ,  $J(n) = 0 = K(n)$ .

*Sketch of proof.* We prove the lemma by using the identities (3.1)–(3.16). The 14 sequences  $S_n(j)$ , where  $j$  is different from 9 and 15, can be expressed as linear combinations of the  $S_m(9)$ 's and the  $S_m(15)$ 's in the following way: from (3.16), we find that  $S_n(14)$  is given by

$$S_n(14) = S_n(15) - a^2 b^2 q^{12n+12} S_{n-1}(9).$$

Using the above equation in (3.15),  $S_n(13)$  becomes such a linear combination. Similarly for  $S_n(12)$  if we use (3.14). Equation (3.10) yields such a linear combination for  $S_n(8)$ . Subsequently, (3.13) yields a linear combination for  $S_n(11)$ , and (3.11) yields a linear combination for  $S_n(10)$ . Replacing  $n$  by  $n+1$  in (3.12), we get

$$S_n(5) = a^{-2} b^{-1} q^{-12n-19} [S_{n+1}(11) - S_{n+1}(10)],$$

which in turn yields an expression for  $S_n(5)$  in terms of the  $S_m(9)$ 's and the  $S_m(15)$ 's. Equations (3.9), (3.8), (3.6), (3.5), (3.4) and (3.3) yield respectively linear combinations in terms of the  $S_m(9)$ 's and the  $S_m(15)$ 's for  $S_n(7)$ ,  $S_n(6)$ ,  $S_n(4)$ ,  $S_n(3)$ ,  $S_n(2)$  and  $S_n(1)$ . Finally, we know already from (3.1) that  $S_n(0) = S_{n-1}(15)$ .

We are now in the position to prove  $K(n) = 0$ . Let us consider (3.7), that is

$$S_n(6) = S_n(5) + bq^{6n+5} S_{n-10}(14).$$

Substituting the expression in terms of the  $S_m(9)$ 's and  $S_m(15)$ 's obtained earlier for  $S_n(5)$  and the respective one for  $S_{n-1}(14)$  in the equation above, we get a certain identity, (A) say.

On the other hand, from (3.8), we have

$$S_n(6) = S_n(7) - abq^{12n+6} S_{n-1}(5).$$

Substituting the expression in terms of the  $S_m(9)$ 's and  $S_m(15)$ 's obtained earlier for  $S_n(7)$  and the respective one for  $S_{n-1}(5)$ , we obtain another identity, (B) say. It can now be verified that (A)–(B), when multiplied by  $a^2 bq^{12n+19}$ , is exactly the equation  $K(n+1) = 0$ .

Now we prove  $J(n) = 0$ . Substituting the expressions obtained earlier for  $S_n(1)$ ,  $S_n(0)$ ,  $S_{n-1}(11)$  and  $S_{n-1}(5)$  into (3.2), we obtain

$$0 = a^2 bq^{12n+19} J(n) - K(n+1) + aq^{6n+13} (1 + aq^{6n+2} + bq^{6n+4} + bq^{6n+5}) K(n).$$

Since  $K(n) = 0$  for all  $n \geq 0$ , we conclude that  $J(n) = 0$  for all  $n \geq 0$ . This proves the lemma.  $\square$

**Lemma 6.** For  $n \geq 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} (3.19) \quad & (1 + aq^{6n-5} + aq^{6n-4} + bq^{6n-2} + bq^{6n-1}) S_n(9) \\ &= p_1(n, a, b, q) S_{n-1}(9) + (1 - q^{6n}) p_2(n, a, b, q) S_{n-2}(9) \\ &\quad + p_3(n, a, b, q) (1 - q^{6n}) (1 - q^{6n-6}) S_{n-3}(9) \\ &\quad + a^4 b^4 q^{30n-36} (1 - q^{6n}) (1 - q^{6n-6}) (1 - q^{6n-12}) \\ &\quad \times [(1 + aq^{6n+1} + aq^{6n+2} + bq^{6n+4} + bq^{6n+5}) S_{n-4}(9)], \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.20) \quad p_1(n, a, b, q) = & 1 + aq^{6n-5} + aq^{6n-4} + bq^{6n-2} + bq^{6n-1} + abq^{6n} + 2abq^{12n-1} + 3abq^{12n} \\
 & + aq^{6n+2} + 2a^2q^{12n-3} + a^2q^{12n-2} + 2abq^{12n+1} + a^2bq^{12n+2} + bq^{6n+4} \\
 & + b^2q^{12n+2} + 2b^2q^{12n+3} + ab^2q^{12n+4} + bq^{6n+5} + b^2q^{12n+4} + ab^2q^{12n+5} \\
 & + a^2q^{12n+3} + 2a^2bq^{18n+1} + 2a^2bq^{18n+2} + abq^{12n+5} + a^2bq^{18n} \\
 & + ab^2q^{18n+3} + a^2q^{12n-4} + 2ab^2q^{18n+4} + abq^{12n+6} + 2ab^2q^{18n+5} \\
 & + abq^{12n+7} + a^2bq^{18n+3} + ab^2q^{18n+6} + b^2q^{12n+9} + a^3q^{18n-2} \\
 & + a^3q^{18n-1} + b^3q^{18n+7} + b^3q^{18n+8} + a^2bq^{12n+1} + aq^{6n+1},
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.21) \quad p_2(n, a, b, q) = & a^2bq^{12n-5} + a^2bq^{12n-4} + ab^2q^{12n-2} + ab^2q^{12n-1} + a^2b^2q^{12n} + a^3bq^{18n-4} \\
 & + a^3bq^{18n-3} + a^3bq^{18n-2} + 3a^2b^2q^{18n} + a^2b^2q^{18n-1} + ab^3q^{18n+2} \\
 & + ab^3q^{18n+3} + a^2b^2q^{18n+1} + ab^3q^{18n+4} + a^3bq^{18n-10} + a^2b^2q^{18n-7} \\
 & + 3a^2b^2q^{18n-6} + a^3b^2q^{18n-5} + a^4bq^{24n-9} + a^4bq^{24n-8} + a^4bq^{24n-7} \\
 & + 3a^3b^2q^{24n-5} + a^3b^2q^{24n-6} + 3a^2b^3q^{24n-2} + 3a^3b^2q^{24n-4} + 3a^2b^3q^{24n-1} \\
 & + a^3bq^{18n-9} + a^3bq^{18n-8} + a^2b^2q^{18n-5} + a^3b^2q^{18n-4} + a^2b^3q^{24n} \\
 & + ab^3q^{18n-4} + ab^4q^{24n} + a^3b^2q^{24n-3} + ab^4q^{24n+2} + ab^3q^{18n-2} \\
 & + ab^4q^{24n+1} + ab^4q^{24n+3} + a^4bq^{24n-6} + ab^3q^{18n-3} + a^2b^3q^{18n-2} \\
 & + a^2b^3q^{18n-1} + a^2b^3q^{24n-3},
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.22) \quad p_3(n, a, b, q) = & -a^3b^3q^{24n-12} - a^3b^3q^{18n-12} - a^4b^3q^{24n-11} - a^4b^3q^{24n-10} - a^3b^4q^{24n-8} \\
 & - a^3b^4q^{24n-7} + 2a^4b^3q^{30n-17} + 2a^4b^3q^{30n-16} + 2a^3b^4q^{30n-14} \\
 & + 2a^3b^4q^{30n-13} + a^4b^2q^{24n-21} + a^5b^2q^{30n-20} + a^3b^3q^{24n-19} \\
 & + a^5b^2q^{30n-19} + a^4b^3q^{30n-18} + a^3b^4q^{30n-15} + a^3b^3q^{24n-18} + a^3b^3q^{24n-17} \\
 & + a^4b^3q^{30n-15} + a^3b^4q^{30n-12} + a^2b^5q^{30n-11} + a^2b^5q^{30n-10} + a^2b^4q^{24n-15}.
 \end{aligned}$$

*Sketch of proof.* Using the identity  $J(n) = 0$ , we find that  $S_{n-1}(15)$  is a linear combination of  $S_n(9)$ ,  $S_{n-1}(9)$ ,  $S_{n-2}(9)$  and  $S_{n-3}(9)$ . By Lemma 5, we have  $K(n) = 0$ . We substitute that linear combination for  $S_{n-1}(15)$  and the corresponding one for  $S_n(15)$  in (3.18). After some simplification, and after replacing  $n$  by  $n - 1$ , we arrive exactly at (3.19).  $\square$

We are now able to prove a recurrence for  $S_n(15)$ .

**Lemma 7.** *For  $n \geq 0$ , we have*

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.23) \quad & (1 + aq^{6n-5} + aq^{6n-4} + bq^{6n-2} + bq^{6n-1})S_n(15) \\
 &= p_1(n-1, aq^6, bq^6, q)S_{n-1}(15) + (1 - q^{6n-6})p_2(n-1, aq^6, bq^6, q)S_{n-2}(15) \\
 &\quad + (1 - q^{6n-6})(1 - q^{6n-12})p_3(n-1, aq^6, bq^6, q)S_{n-3}(15) \\
 &\quad + a^4b^4q^{30n-18}(1 + aq^{6n+1} + aq^{6n+2} + bq^{6n+4} + bq^{6n+5}) \\
 &\quad \times (1 - q^{6n-6})(1 - q^{6n-12})(1 - q^{6n-18})S_{n-4}(15).
 \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Since  $J(n) = 0$ , we can express  $S_n(15)$  in terms of the  $S_n(9)$ 's. Substituting these expressions in (3.23), we get an equation involving  $S_{n+1}(9), S_n(9), \dots, S_{n-6}(9)$ . In that equation we apply Lemma 6 to  $S_{n+1}(9)$ . In the result thus obtained, we apply Lemma 6 to  $S_n(9)$ . In the subsequent result obtained, we apply Lemma 6 to  $S_{n-1}(9)$ . In the result obtained, we again apply Lemma 6, this time to  $S_{n-2}(9)$ . The result is zero. All these calculations have been performed using *Mathematica*.  $\square$

**Lemma 8.** *For  $n \geq 0$ ,*

$$S_n(15, a, b, q) = (1 + aq)(1 + aq^2)(1 + bq^4)(1 + bq^5)S_{n-1}(9, aq^6, bq^6, q).$$

*Proof.* Comparing Lemma 7 and Lemma 6, we find that both sides of Lemma 8 satisfy the same fourth order recurrence valid for  $n \geq 1$ . Hence we have only to verify Lemma 8 for  $n = 0, 1, 2, 3$ . This is a routine verification, and can therefore be left to the reader.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 4.* For  $0 \leq j \leq 15$ , we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n(j, a, b, q) = \sum_{\mu, \nu, N \geq 0} B(\mu, \nu, N) a^\mu b^\nu q^N \equiv S(a, b, q).$$

Letting  $n \rightarrow \infty$  in Lemma 8, we find that

$$S(a, b, q) = (1 + aq)(1 + aq^2)(1 + bq^4)(1 + bq^5)S(aq^6, bq^6, q).$$

Iterating the above equation, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 S(a, b, q) &= \prod_{n=0}^{\infty} (1 + aq^{6n+1})(1 + aq^{6n+2})(1 + bq^{6n+4})(1 + bq^{6n+5}) \\
 &= \sum_{\mu, \nu, N \geq 0} A(\mu, \nu, N) a^\mu b^\nu q^N,
 \end{aligned}$$

the latter equality being due to (2.1). Thus we get

$$\sum_{\mu, \nu, N \geq 0} B(\mu, \nu, N) a^\mu b^\nu q^N = \sum_{\mu, \nu, N \geq 0} A(\mu, \nu, N) a^\mu b^\nu q^N,$$

which, upon comparison of coefficients of  $a^\mu b^\nu q^N$ , implies

$$A(\mu, \nu, N) = B(\mu, \nu, N)$$

for all non-negative  $\mu, \nu$  and  $N$ . This is exactly the claim in Theorem 4.  $\square$



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DEPARTMENT OF STUDIES IN MATHEMATICS, UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE, MANASAGANGOTRI,  
MYSORE – 570 006, KARNATAKA, INDIA

INSTITUT GIRARD DESARGUES, UNIVERSITÉ CLAUDE BERNARD LYON-I, 21, AVENUE CLAUDE  
BERNARD, F-69622 VILLEURBANNE CEDEX, FRANCE